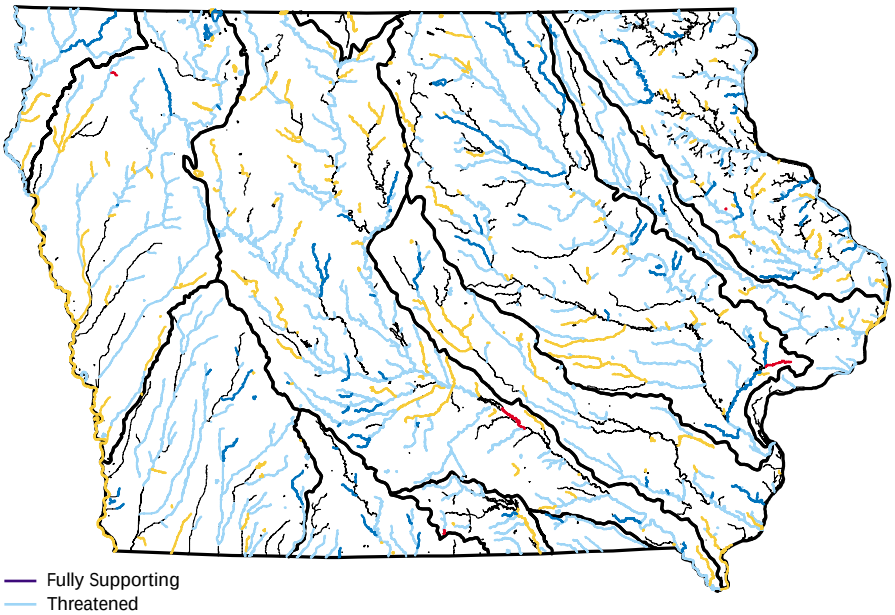
Iowa



This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the Iowa 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

There is impaired aquatic life use in 19% of Iowa's assessed rivers and 35% of assessed lakes. Swimming use is impaired in 54% of 913 surveyed river miles and 26% of assessed lakes, ponds and reservoirs. Saylorville, Red Rock, Coralville, and Rathbun reservoirs have good water quality that fully supports all designated uses. However, siltation threatens beneficial uses at all reservoirs, and agricultural pesticides threaten drinking water uses at Rathbun. Point sources still pollute about 5% of the assessed stream miles and two lakes.

Ground Water Quality

Ground water supplies about 80% of Iowa's drinking water. Agricultural chemicals, underground storage tanks, agricultural drainage wells, livestock wastes, and improper management of hazardous substances all contribute to ground water contamination. Several studies have detected low levels of common agricultural pesticides and synthetic organic compounds in both untreated and treated ground water. In most cases, the small concentrations are thought to pose no immediate threat to public health, but little is known about the health effects of long-term exposure to low concentrations of these chemicals.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Pollution from municipal and industrial point sources is controlled primarily through the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System through permits, development and enforcement of water quality standards, and legal action. The program also includes control of stormwater runoff from urban and industrial areas.

Sediment is the greatest pollutant, by volume, in Iowa. The state adopted a nonpoint control strategy of education projects and cost-share programs. Later, it adopted rules requiring that land disposal of animal wastes not contaminate

surface and ground waters. Landfill rules require annual inspections and permit renewals every 3 years. Iowa regulates construction in floodplains to limit erosion and impacts on aquatic life. In 1990, a Nonpoint Source Program was developed whereby state and federal agencies cooperate to implement water quality projects, including education, demonstrations, and implementation of best management practices.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Iowa's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) either maintains or cooperates in long-term sampling networks for both surface and ground waters. DNR routinely monitors metals, ammonia, and residual chlorine at fixed sampling sites. Limited sampling for agricultural pesticides began in 1995.

Information about toxic contaminants in fish is from long-term DNR/EPA and other monitoring programs. Toxins in sediment are monitored as part of a USGS study. The role of biological sampling is growing, with over 100 reference sites sampled so far. The development of volunteer monitoring programs will provide an additional source of water quality information.

Individual Use Support in Iowa

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles/Acres Assessed	Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 71,665)[b]						
	9,418	11	70	19	0	-
	1,819	83	16	0	1	-
	913	13	32	39	15	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 161,336)[c]						
	41,753	32	32	35	0	-
	27,323	99	0	0	1	-
	38,661	25	48	26	0	0
Flood Control Reservoirs (Total Acres = 31,700)						
	40,300	26	74	0	0	-
	40,300	100	0	0	0	-
	40,300	26	74	0	0	-
Wetlands (Total Acres = 37,800)						
	33,221	6	38	43	14	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,138	100	0	0	0	-

[a] A subset of Iowa's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.
[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.
[c] Excludes flood control reservoirs.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.